

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Lithuanian SSR)	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Prices, Wages, and Black Market Activity in Kaunas	DATE DISTR.		
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Representative prices in Kaunas in early 1954 were as follows:

Item	Unit	Prices in rubles		Remarks
		State stores	Free market	
Pork ribs (unsmoked)	1 kg		22 to 28	Not available in stores.
Bacon, fresh (salt pork)	1 kg		30 to 35	Not available in stores.
Bacon, smoked (salt pork)	1 kg		35 to 45	Not available in stores.
Ham, fresh	1 kg		18 to 19	Not available in stores.
Ham, smoked	1 kg		25 to 30	Not available in stores.
Veal, fresh	1 kg		12 to 13	Seldom available.
Mutton	1 kg		19 to 24	Seldom available.
Oil	1 kg	17 to 19		Same price in all food stores.
Fish in cans:				
Cod (treska) in oil	350 g	7		
Cod in tomatoes	350 g	5		

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	PM		AEC							
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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Butter	1 kg	27 (winter)	20 to 23 (summer) 30 to 32 (winter)	Difficult to obtain in stores.
Beef fat	1 kg	19		
Margarine (<u>mangunziras</u>)?	1 kg	16.7		
Margarine	1 kg	14.3		
Sugar, cube		11		Approximate price.
Sugar, powdered	1 kg	9		Approximate price.
Wheat flour:				
Finest flour (<u>krupchatka</u>)	1 kg	6		Easily obtainable.
First quality	1 kg	4.3		Easily obtainable.
Second quality	1 kg	2.8 to 3.2		Difficult to obtain; long queues when available.
Third quality	1 kg	2.5		Mouldy; queues at stores.
Rye bread	50 kg		120 to 140	Unobtainable at stores.
Black bread	1 kg	1.4		
Black bread, better quality	1 kg	1.5		
Farmers' bread	1 kg		3 to 4	Unobtainable at stores.
White bread	1 kg	1.8		
Potatoes	50 kg		25 to 30 (fall) 40 to 60 (winter)	
Vodka	3/4 lt.	40 to 44		
Vodka	100 gr.	about 5		
Homemade Vodka	3/4 lt.			Obtainable only from black marketeers, who do not sell to strangers, at 18 rubles.
Beer, bottled	1/2 lt.	2.5		In kiosks and bars.
Beer, on tap	3/8 to 1/2 lt.	2.1 to 2.5		Price of beer depends on the locale; it costs more in restaurants.
Papirosy (cigarettes with mouth- piece):				

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Raketa
cigarettes 20 or 25;
pkg of 20 .48

Have an unpleasant
odor.

Cigarettes:

Pamir pkg of
20 1.05
Parashyut pkg of
20 1.05
Avrora pkg of
20 1.4
Prima pkg of
20 1.4

These cigarettes
are all of domestic
manufacture by the
Zefir and Kova
factories.

Men's suits:

Kortas 1 125

Difficult to obtain;
long queues when avail-
able. More expensive
on open market.

Ordinary
material 1 470

Difficult to obtain;
long queues.

Unidentified
material 1 900

Easier to obtain.

Unidentified
material 1 1,200

Easily obtainable.

Unidentified
material 1 2,000

Easily obtainable.

Cloth for men's
suits

Very seldom available;
long queues even for
very expensive cloth.

Men's over-
coats : 1 500

Obtainable in summer;
long queues when avail-
able in winter.

1 600

Obtainable in summer;
long queues when avail-
able in winter.

1 1,000

Always obtainable.

1 1,500

Easily obtainable.

Men's shoes:

Canvas 1 pr possibly 35
35

Pigskin 1 pr possibly 80 to 90
80 to 90

Rubber-soled 1 pr possibly 140 to 150
140-150

Leather-soled 1 pr possibly 300
300

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Ladies' shoes:

Canvas	1 pr	possibly 30	30
Pigskin	1 pr	possibly 67	67
Rubber-soled	1 pr	possibly 110	110
Leather soled	1 pr	possibly 300	300

Children's shoes

1 pr 50

Priced according to size.

Cloth for ladies' dresses:

Georgette	1 m	31
Kortas	1 m	7 to 8

There are several other types of material.

Men's wallet:

Oilcloth	1	10 to 17
Leather	1	60 to 70

Firewood:

Aspen	1 cu m	36
Alder	1 cu m	48
Birch	1 cu m	48
Birch	3/4 cu m	40 to 70
Coal	1 t	106

Firewood is sold, for offices only, at the fuel section storage point in the port of Kaunas. Farmers sell alder and birch by the cartload.

Obtainable at the fuel section storage point in the port of Kaunas.

2. Wages received by various categories of workers in Kaunas in early 1954 were as follows:

Position	Salary in rubles		Remarks
	Per month	Per working day	
Janitor or sweeper	260 to 310		Such a worker might occasionally earn 360 per month.
Loader at Kauno Audiniai	384	14.98	
Loader at the Nemunas River Shipping Enterprise		11.6	
Weaver at Kauno Audiniai		21	

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Worker at the meat
combine

500 to 700

Working day is from
0900 to 2300 or 2400
hours.

Guard at Highway
Directorate ware-
house

310

Head of administrative
section at Inkaras Shoe
factory, supervising three
typists

600

Cashier

410

Bookkeeper at milk,
butter, and cheese
plant

550

3. There is a market place for food stuffs in Zava Turgus near Rotuse and Jaksto Gatve. Industrial goods are sold at a market on Varniu Gatve near Demokratu Gatve in Vilijampole. The markets are open every day until 1600 hours. Farmers are provided transportation from their kolkhozy to the market on Sunday. The market places are fenced, and persons with goods to sell are charged three rubles for entrance on foot or 12 rubles for entrance with a cart. The collectors are civilians, who stand at the gate. Merchandise to be sold has to be brought first to a control point near the market.
4. There are many professional black marketers at the market places, but other persons often try to sell their own goods or goods stolen from their places of employment. The latter sometimes sell at prices below those charged in stores, because they are afraid of being apprehended by the militia, who frequent the market places in civilian dress. For example, a suit in excellent condition that cost 570 rubles originally was sold for 290 rubles. There is a fine of 100 rubles for the first offence of selling new items on the black market, and the second offence is punished by six to seven years' imprisonment. The sale of gold rings and watches is not punishable. The militia are often bribed by professional black marketers to frighten non-professionals into selling goods at very low prices. The professional black marketer also dupes the customer by showing him goods in a package, bargaining over the price, then pretending to be frightened by an approaching militiaman, closing the deal quickly, and handing over a package which, as the customer learns later, is full of worthless paper. Frequently, the militiaman is bribed to approach at the psychological moment.
5. There is an active black market in homemade vodka, called samagonas. The majority of farmers and suburbanites make vodka, which they sell at prices lower than those asked in the State stores. Three-fourths of a liter of vodka can be made at home for 11 to 13 rubles and sold on the black market for 18 rubles. The militia sometimes search the premises of persons suspected of making vodka, but they can usually be bribed by 50, 100, or more rubles and enough vodka to satisfy their thirst.
6. For many persons, the primary consideration in obtaining a job is not the salary but the opportunity of stealing merchandise from the enterprise. This practice is so common that it is called "combination" rather than stealing. Workers in the meat combine help each other to steal meat. Guards allow workers to pass the gates without being searched, because the guards themselves have been observed in the act of stealing. Acquaintances exchange merchandise stolen from their respective places of employment.

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